

REFERENCES

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- THOTHATHRI, K. (1987): Taxonomic revision of the tribe Dalbergieae in the Indian subcontinent. Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta, pp. 127-129.

36. TWO DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORDS OF CAESALPINIACEAE FOR TAMIL NADU

During a botanical exploration on Tirunelveli hills and the adjoining regions, the authors collected interesting specimens of genus *Caesalpinia* L. and *Cassia* L. (Caesalpinaceae).

Study of the literature confirmed the specimens as *Caesalpinia major* (Medik.) Dandy & Exell and *Cassia sericea* Sw. The identification was confirmed by the Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore. So far, they are not recorded from Tamil Nadu, so this constitutes a first record for the state. The nomenclature, diagnostic features, phenology, collection site, field numbers and distribution of the taxa have been provided. The voucher specimens have been deposited in St. Xavier's College Herbarium (XCH), St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai.

Caesalpinia major (Medik.) Dandy & Exell, J. Bot. 76.180.1938; Fosberg, Taxon 22: 162.1793; Halltink, Reinwardtia 9:39. 1974; Verdecourt, Man. New Guinea Legum. 26.1979; Rudd in Dassanayake & Fosberg, Rev. Handb. Fl. Ceylon. 7:49.1991. Bennet, Nam. Cha. Flow. Pl. India and Adj. Regions, 88. 1987. *Guilandina bonduc* L. Sp. Pl. ed. 2, 1: 545. 1762, Pro parte non, L., 1753. *Bonduc majus* Medik., Theod. Spec. 43, t.3, Sup. 1786, excl. syn. L. Type: *Frutex globulorum* Rumph., Herb. Amboin. 5:89, t.48. 1747. *Caesalpinia bonduc* sensu auct. Roxb. Fl. India 2: 362. 1832, non *Guilandina bonduc* L. 1753; Baker in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 2: 255. 1878; *Guilandina major* (DC.) Small, Fl. Southeast U.S. 591, 1331. 1903; Skeels, Science, New Ser. 37: 922. 1913. *Caesalpinia globurum* (sic) Bakh. f. & Van Royen, Blumea 12: 62. 1963; Backer & Bakh. f., Fl. Java 1: 545. 1963. *C. jayabo* Maza. ex Merr. In Interp. Herb. Amb. 261; Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras 1: 394. 1997. (reprint).

Armed stragglers; branchlets pubescent, recurved prickles. Leaves alternate, imparipinnate; leaflets 6-8 pairs, opposite, elliptic-ovate, 6-11 x 3.5 cm, membranous, glossy, glabrous except midrib, sub-sessile. Flowers yellow in axillary simple/rarely branched racemes. Calyx gibbous, brown. Ovules 2-4, parietal. Style included. Pod obovoid, prickled, beaked at apex. Seeds 1-3.

Fl. & Fr: August-November.

Specimens Examined: Tamil Nadu, Tirunelveli district, Karayar, Manickam, 16910, 17153 (XCH).

Remarks: Occasionally found in the moist deciduous forests.

Distribution: India (Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra), Sri Lanka, Malay Islands, Polynesia, West Indies.

Cassia sericea Sw., Fl. Ind. Occ. 2(1): 274.1798; Griseb. Fl. Brit. W. Indies. Ib.3: 209.1860; Singh, Bull. Bot. Surv. India 21: 203.1981; Saldanha, Fl. Karnataka 1: 386.1984.

Subshrub to 1 m; branchlets pubescent. Leaves alternate, paripinnate; leaflets 3-4 pairs, ovate-oblong, 2-4 x 1-2.5 cm, pubescent, apex apiculate. Flowers yellow, in axillary short racemes. Sepals free, obovate. Antheriferous stamens 7. Pod flat, 4 cm long. Seeds 7-9.

Fl. & Fr: November-January.

Specimens Examined: Tamil Nadu, Tirunelveli district, Palayamkottai, near N.G.O. 'B' Colony, Murugan 20495 (XCH)

Remarks: Occasionally found along the roadsides.

Distribution: Native of tropical South America, naturalising in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra states of India.

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C. MURUGAN
V.S. MANICKAM

Centre for Biodiversity and Biotechnology,
Department of Botany, St. Xavier's College,
Palayamkottai 627 002,
Tamil Nadu, India.